

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
NOVEMBER 28, 2005  
TOWN HALL**

Board Members Present: Janet G. Stanton, Chairman  
David D. Macy, Selectman  
Julie M. Hannum, Selectman

Other Staff Present: Robert Weitz, Town Administrator  
Beverly A. Gilbert, Recording Secretary

Chairman Stanton called meeting to order at 6:15PM

**INTERVIEW OF BUILDING INSPECTOR / ZONING ENFORCEMENT OFFICER  
APPLICANT**

Until approximately 7:50PM the Board and Town Administrator Weitz interviewed Thomas Carmody for the Building Inspector / ZEO opening.

At 7PM, Chairman Stanton announced that the board had opened the meeting at 6:15PM for an interview, and will now continue for additional business.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Selectman Macy moved to approve the meeting minutes for the November 7, 2005 Regular and Executive Sessions. Julie Hannum seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**COMMUNITY TELEVISION FOR THE SOUTHERN BERKSHIRES: ACCESS FEE**  
Paul O'Brien recommended that the Board increase the cable television public access fee to 5%. He advised that the other four towns agreed to the 5% fee, and that the increase will help cover the cost of three staff members (necessary due to shortage of volunteers), purchase new equipment, allow for coverage of additional meetings, and assist with overall improvement of the quality of the stations (sound/pictures/programming).

Chairman Stanton stated that most other communities she had surveyed have the 5% public access fee. In addition, Chairman Stanton noted significant increase in variety, and local programming and getting away from airing shows from other states.

Selectman Hannum stated that her understanding (from Norm McCloud) is that the town can receive a recording of meetings without charge. Chairman Stanton stated that tapes and lectures can be kept at the library (not permanently) for those without cable. Mr. O'Brien will check on this.

Selectman Hannum moved to approve an increase in the cable television public television access fee to 5% effective January 1, 2006 for one year, seconded by Selectman Macy. Motion carried unanimously.

Selectman Hannum brought up the availability of posting meetings, etc on the CTSB bulletin board (each town has their own). Mr. O'Brien will talk to Town Clerk Felecie Joyce to figure out how to facilitate.

Chairman Stanton advised that Bernard Buckholz expressed interest in the Cable Television Advisory Board Committee, and asked Mr. O'Brien to contact him.

#### GRAVEL PERMIT APPLICATION

Town Administrator Weitz read the attached memorandum of decision, which provides a written statement of the board's vote of November 7, 2005 concerning Bob and Rose Cronk's gravel permit application.

Selectman Macy moved to sign the aforementioned memorandum of decision, seconded by Selectman Hannum. Motion carried unanimously.

#### REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO HUNT ON TOWN FOREST

Selectman Macy moved to grant permission to Tom Ackerman of 513 Polikoff road to bow hunt on town forest during the 2005 season, seconded by Selectman Hannum. Motion carried unanimously.

#### MAIL OF NOTE:

- MASS. HIGHWAY – BERKSHIRE SCHOOL ROAD

Town Administrator Weitz read Mass Highway Dept Director Ross Dindio's correspondence dated November 22, 2005. Selectman Macy expressed his displeasure about patching holes in the sidewalk from telephone poles. Brief discussion ensued about the unfortunate remedy for the guardrails on the bridge. The Board directed Town Administrator Weitz to write a letter to Mass Highway Dept.

- SHEFFIELD LAND TRUST – CHAPTER 61, 61A & 61B RIGHTS OF FIRST REFUSAL

As requested in the above listed letter, the board agreed that it or the Board of Assessors will try to notify the Sheffield Land Trust when the town receives applications to remove land from Chapter 61, 61A & 61B

- PLANNING BOARD – ZONING ENFORCEMENT

Town Administrator Weitz advised that Rene Wood sent a correspondence to alert the board about various zoning violations. Selectman Macy stated that the town is in a transition due to the resignation of its building inspector / ZEO and will look forward to having these issues addressed when the town has its new Zoning Enforcement Officer,

#### SENIOR CENTER UPDATE

Chairman Stanton reported the town is considering two properties for the Senior Center. The Assessors advised that Barrington Stage had been eliminated, and that the Board of Assessors specified that the property in back of the Barrington Stage property would need to be surveyed to clarify ownership before negotiations could begin. At Chairman Stanton's inquiry, George Oleen, Secretary of the American Legion, stated that the American Legion remains interested in the possibility of locating the Senior Center on the Sheffield Post Home Property. At Mr. Oleen's suggestion, the board will send a letter to Mark Bachetti, President of the Sheffield Post Home, Inc. with copy to Bruce Philbrick, Commander of the American Legion Post requesting a meeting (in January) with the officers of the Sheffield Post Home Inc., and the American Legion to discuss ideas as to how the property could be utilized.

#### KATHY ORLAND OF SHEFFIELD LAND GROUP RE: CONSERVATION RESTRICTION (BOW WOW RD)

Ms Orlando discussed and fielded questions relative to Sheffield Land Group Conservation Restriction for 53 acres of forest and wild life habitat on Bow Wow Road. She also explained the Sheffield Land Trust's rationale for selecting land for its programs. Tammy Blackwell, Chairman of the Board of Assessors was present to discuss impact on property taxes, and at this time, was not able to provide prediction concerning the long-term impact on the property tax as to benefits to the town. Her current estimate was that Conservation Restriction would result in \$5,000 per year in lost tax revenue. Chairman Stanton stated that she would like to accommodate Selectman Macy's request to hold voting until the next meeting to afford him time to reflect on the information presented.

#### SELECTMEN'S ITEMS

Selectman Hannum gave kudos to the library for Local Author's Day.

Chairman Stanton stated that she would like the board to review its meeting schedule.

Selectman Hannum inquired about status of the highway crew. There is one unfilled position. In the interim the town employs two part-time workers. It was agreed that Town Administrator Weitz will advertise for a foreman position with possibility that person might eventually take over the Superintendent's position when he retires.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

It was agreed that Town Administrator Weitz and the highway superintendent will conduct site visits with George Oleen who reported problem culverts located on Barnum, Foley and Kelsey roads.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION RE: STRATEGY WITH RESPECT TO LITIGATION AND REAL ESTATE NEGOTIATIONS

Selectman Hannum moved to end this regular session meeting, and enter into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to real estate negotiations, seconded by Selectman Macy. ROLE CALL VOTE: Chairman Stanton, aye, Selectman Macy, aye and Selectman Hannum, aye.

The Board adjourned at 8:52 PM and went into Executive Session at 8:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Gilbert, Recording Secretary